

WASHINGTON POST  
AND TIMES HERALD

JUL 13 1966

## THE CENTRAL Intel-

ligence Agency, for years a source of growing political controversy, has been ordered by President Johnson to get out of policymaking and under the cloak of anonymity.

That is the real significance behind the abrupt dismissal of retired Navy Adm. William F. (Red) Raborn as CIA Director and his replacement by the competent, professional Richard Helms, the first CIA careerist to be placed in charge of the super-secret spy agency.

So swiftly did Mr. Johnson move in replacing the amiable Admiral, a genuine hero in development of the Navy's Polaris submarine but a misfit in the CIA, that Raborn learned of his replacement only after the President announced it to the world on June 18 at a suddenly called press conference.

Raborn had gone to play golf that Saturday morning and had forgotten to take his "bellboy," a tiny electronic device that beeps when the boss calls. When White House aides were ordered by the President to telephone the Admiral about his imminent departure, they couldn't find him.

THIS BIZARRE aspect of Raborn's departure was sadly symbolic of his entire 13-month tenure in the job held in the past by such glamorous figures as Air Force Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Allen W. Dulles, the tweeds-and-pipe super-spy, and millionaire industrial-



Novak

Evans

ist John A. McCone. Raborn was never intended by the President to be more than a brief transition between the glamor of the old CIA and the clinical technology of the new CIA that the President hopes to develop under technician Helms.

But his replacement came much sooner than anyone thought. The reason for the President's unexpected haste in dismissing Raborn is directly linked to Mr. Johnson's private thoughts about the future role of the CIA and deep concern over Congressional attacks on the agency.

In the first place, the President was alarmed by the rash of unfavorable publicity directed at Adm. Raborn. It conflicted with his plan to take the CIA out of the limelight and out of the news.

In the second place, and more to the point, the President decided soon after appointing Raborn that he had made a mistake. No outsider, he realized, could possibly master the modern technology of the spy business with its heavy emphasis on scientific methods. U. S. security, he decided, simply would not permit a long on-the-job training course for any CIA Director.

Mr. Johnson, in fact, became convinced by his personal observation of the Raborn tenure that, without an experienced professional at the head of the CIA, the agency runs the risk of losing ground in the most dangerously competitive business in the world—the business of spying.

THE DE-GLAMORIZING of the CIA actually started after the Bay of Pigs fiasco, in the spring of 1961. When McCone succeeded Dulles, he was quietly informed by President Johnson that gathering and

evaluation of intelligence, not policymaking, would be his job. But McCone, a high-powered official in Washington off and on since the Truman administration, had strong ideas and influence to match. He and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara often clashed over Administration policies.

When McCone resigned last year, he favored his deputy, Helms, as the ideal replacement except for one thing: as a 10-year careerist, he had no outside power base, as Dulles and McCone had had. This, thought McCone, might make it impossible for him to say no to the President on policy disagreements.

But to Mr. Johnson, that now becomes one of Helms' chief assets for the job. Since Mr. Johnson is determined to keep the CIA out of the news and to remove it from all policy functions, Helms is precisely the man he needs. For example, back in 1965 one of the major reasons he assigned a special intelligence role to J. Edgar Hoover's FBI in the Dominican revolution was to reduce the CIA's visibility in a public controversy and substitute that of the politically immune FBI. That's how strongly Mr. Johnson feels about keeping the CIA out of the headlines.

Under Helms, then, the CIA, source of so much controversy in the past, is destined for low visibility and discreet silence.

© 1966, Publishers Newspaper Syndicate

FOIAb3b